

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

January 1, 2005

(status through December 31, prepared January 10)

TOTAL POPULATION

245

CAPTIVE POPULATION

132

Los Angeles Zoo 25

San Diego WAP 27

WCBP Boise 44

Oregon Zoo 13

Mentor birds in field pens 3 (SB# 36 in So. CA, # 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)

Pre-release birds in field pens 20

Southern California 4 (SB# 330, 335, 336, 345)

Central California 0

Baja California 2 (SB# 315, 320)

Arizona 14 (SB # 297, 302, 314, 324, 327, 329, 331, 337, 343, 346, 347, 349, 352, 353)

WILD POPULATION

113

California

57

Southern California-released birds

Flying 20

Central California-released birds

Flying 29

Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen 7 (SB# 265, 266, 270, 278, 286, 287, 318)

Flying, wild-fledged 1

Baja California

8

Flying 8

Arizona

48

Flying, released 45

Flying, wild-fledged 3

Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen 0

Changes in December:

Arizona – SB# 300 missing since September, presumed dead; 11 young birds transferred from WCBP to Vermillion Cliffs release site Dec. 17; 4 birds (SB# 232, 273, 282, 243) re-released to the wild Dec. 17 after being temporarily held in field pens

So. California – 4 young birds (SB# 330, 335, 336, 345) transferred from SDWAP to field pens on Dec. 7

Central California – 1 wild bird (SB# 318) temporarily retrapped for treatment because of radio-transmitter problems

Eggs laid in 2004:

Los Angeles Zoo – 5 eggs: 2 hatched; 2 nestlings

Los Angeles Zoo – 4 eggs from other facilities: 4 hatched; 3 nestlings

San Diego WAP – 11 eggs: 1 transferred to LAZ, 8 hatched; 8 nestlings

WCBP Boise – 29 eggs: 2 transferred to LAZ, 15 hatched; 14 nestlings

Oregon Zoo – 2 eggs: 1 transferred to LAZ, 1 hatched; 1 nestling

Wild, California – 3 eggs: 3 hatched; 3 nestlings (1 died, 1 in rehabilitation, 1 fledged)

Wild, Arizona – 2 eggs: 2 hatched; 2 fledged

California Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/t_e_spp/tebird/Condor%20Pop%20Stat.pdf

Wild Population Statistics, January 1, 2005

Releases:

1988-92: So. CA – 15 Andean condors released, 1 died, 14 recaptured and released in South America

1992-95: So. CA – 13 California condors released in 1992-93: 6 died, 7 returned to captivity permanently

Since 1995:

183 California condors released

60 released-bird deaths:

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
California	0	2	3	3	6	5	4	3	9	0	35
Baja CA								0	0	0	0
Arizona		0	3	2	1	11	1	4	1	2	25
TOTAL	0	2	6	5	7	16	5	7	10	2	60

14 returned to captivity permanently, indefinitely, or for extended treatment or rehabilitation:

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
California	1	0	4	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	11
Baja CA								0	0	0	0
Arizona		0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
TOTAL	1	0	4	0	3	3	0	2	1	0	14

Wild Population Trend Population Size on July 1

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
CALIFORNIA										
Birds from releases	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	36	41	44
Wild nestlings								3	1	3
Total	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	39	42	47
ARIZONA										
Birds from releases			13	16	21	20	26	32	36	43
Wild nestlings									1	2
Wild-fledged birds										1
Total			13	16	21	20	26	32	37	46
BAJA CA										
Birds from releases									5	5
TOTAL	6	17	29	39	50	50	58	71	84	98

Wild Production, 2001- 2004

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, California: **2*** in 2001; **3** in 2002; **1** in 2003; **3** in 2004 (*one trio with 2 eggs)

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, Arizona: **1** in 2001; **2** in 2002; **3** in 2003; **2** in 2004

Of **18** wild-laid eggs, **1** hatched in captivity and was released to the wild, **10** hatched in the wild (fate of nestlings: 4 fledged, 1 in rehab, 5 died), and **7** eggs failed (broken, died, or fate unkn.)

Explanatory Notes

Numbers reported in the monthly status report should be treated as tentative data. These are based on the best information available each month from cooperators in the field and facilities. If a reporting error is discovered after posting online, no correction will be disseminated, unless the error is substantive. Occasionally, a missing bird will continue to be reported live each month until field personnel are satisfied that there is little likelihood it is still alive. For such individuals, the date last detected normally is presumed to be the date of death. Questions about these data should be directed to Ron Jurek, CDFG, 916-654-4267.

SB# - Condor Studbook number

"CAPTIVE POPULATION" includes:

- birds captured from the wild prior to 1988 that are still in a captive facility (e.g., zoo)
- previously released birds returned to captivity permanently or for care and possible re-release
- surviving chicks and juveniles (excludes eggs laid)
- captive-hatched birds retained for captive breeding
- young birds held in breeding facilities in preparation for transfer to a field pen for release
- "mentor birds" from a captive facility transferred temporarily into a field pen to aid socialization of pre-release birds
- birds transferred from a captive facility to a field pen in preparation for initial release or re-release
- LAZ is Los Angeles Zoo; WAP is Wild Animal Park, Zoological Society of San Diego; WCBP is World Center for Birds of Prey, The Peregrine Fund

"WILD POPULATION" includes:

- free-flying birds recently accounted for
- free-flying birds, assumed to be alive, although not recently accounted for
- nestlings in wild nests
- temporarily re-captured wild birds, held in a field pen, that are intended to be re-released soon

"So. Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites from San Luis Obispo County to Ventura County by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Central Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites north of San Luis Obispo County by the Ventana Wilderness Society. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Baja Calif." refers to birds originally released in Baja California, Mexico, by the Zoological Society of San Diego, the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, and the Instituto Nacional de Ecología.

"Arizona" refers to birds released by The Peregrine Fund in Arizona and several other states east of Calif.

Mortalities requiring law enforcement investigation often will not be publicly reported immediately.